



The Peppertree POST

2010 Volume 4

What do we do? Rescue dogs of good temperament who need new homes • Cooperate with and assist other rescues, shelters, and animal control • Educate the public about how to obtain a companion animal.

THE LUCKIEST *Unlucky* DOG

By Sue Tominson

Once upon a time, a pup was born who was blind. Luckily for the pup, a kind fellow named Patrick found her and took her home to raise and love. He named her Mia. She was very happy with Patrick and his fiancée Kelly for 3 years. They took her to the dog park across the street to run and play with other dogs almost every day. She liked to play fetch with a ball that jingled or rattled. Then Patrick got sick, and he and Kelly had to move in with his parents while he was undergoing treatment. They could not take Mia with them. They began searching for a dog rescue that would help them find another home for this very nice, young, blind dog.



Patrick's request went to several dog rescues, and one of them passed Mia's story on to Peppertree Rescue. Peppertree is located in a different city from the one where Patrick and Kelly live, and by the time that Peppertree emailed the other rescue to say they would help find Mia a new home, Patrick and Kelly had already taken Mia to another place. Patrick and Kelly then learned that people said the animals were not well cared for in this place, and Kelly drove there as quickly as she could to get Mia back. Fortunately, Mia seemed mostly okay from her short stay there, except for a sore on her nose. So Patrick and Kelly had Mia back for a few more days, until the weekend when she could be driven to Albany to meet her new foster home and start to look for her new family.

Peppertree started calling Mia Miami, and her new foster mom started taking her to adoption clinics to show people what a nice, loving dog she was. Everyone who met her liked her, but for many weeks, no one liked her enough to want to take her home. Then one day, four and a half weeks after she left Patrick and Kelly's house, Miami met Dianne and Art at a Peppertree adoption clinic. They were looking for a nice dog to keep their two greyhounds company, because their 3rd dog had recently died. Dianne and Art had never thought about having a blind dog. How does a blind dog find her way around the house? How would she like the two greyhounds? Would she be able to take walks on a leash with them? Well, Peppertree's foster mom could answer the first question – Miami walks slowly in the house until she learns where all the furniture is. She learns very quickly, and she knows what the word "careful" means – that there is something in front of her that she's going to bump into. The foster mom couldn't say for sure whether or not Miami would like the two greyhounds, or how she would do on leash walks with two other dogs, but Dianne and Art thought Miami was a really nice dog who deserved a chance to come to their house and see how she would fit in there. So they took her home.

As it turns out, Miami, now called Sophie, likes the two greyhounds just fine. They are like big brothers to her. The Greyhounds, Dianne and Art became her new forever family. They will never replace Patrick and Kelly who gave Mia her once upon a time, but they are just as important – they are Mia/Miami/Sophie's happily ever after.

NOTE FROM THE ADOPTER: "Art asked me last week if I have any regrets about adopting a blind dog. I said absolutely not! Except for some safety precautions, we don't even think about her being blind. I know Peppertree has other blind dogs up for adoption, and I hope that potential adopters won't let this prevent them from getting a great dog. Sophie knew her way around the house within the first week. She is very smart. She loves her big brothers and likes to lick their ears. She loves the snow and likes to make snow angels! It is obvious to us that she came from a very loving home and we will continue that for her. Sometimes I feel sad that she has never had the joy of vision, but I remember that she has been given two loving homes. This is more than a lot of dogs get, as we all know. So, yes, Sophie is a very lucky dog."



APRIL 2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Notes

SAVE THE DATE!!

Fourth Annual Furry Fun Run
April 9th

at Saratoga State Park,
Avenue of the Pines, Warming Hut
Registration will start at 8am.

Check the website for more
detailed information

www.peppertree.com



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(A 501 (c) (3) Not-for-Profit Charity)

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Foster Homes Needed

Please consider opening up
your heart and home to one of
our dogs or puppies for a few
days or weeks to give them a
chance at a new life.



We have to turn away many
animals in need because of a shortage of foster
homes.

Most of our dogs are fostered before being
placed, so if you own a Peppertree dog, your pet
probably benefitted from the kindness of one
or multiple foster home volunteers.

Won't you show another dog or pup the
same kindness?

Holiday Appeal:

Generosity abounds even when times are hard

By Kevin Wilcox, Peppertree President

It was with great anxiety that we kicked off our 2010 Holiday Appeal last November. The economic recession that we are all experiencing has spared very few people or organizations. As a result, Peppertree has recently experienced a significant number of owners being forced to surrender their dogs due to economic hardships and home foreclosures. Many of these dogs have come to Peppertree in need of significant medical care as their owners have had to forego medical care for their dogs as they struggled economically before finally facing the heartbreaking decision to put their dog up for adoption. In addition to this significant jump in veterinary costs, we at Peppertree were also anxious as we approached the 2010 Holiday Appeal as we know that charitable donations to non-profit organizations have decreased significantly as the recession has dragged on. This one-two punch had our collective stomachs in knots as we approached the end of 2010.

However, as has always been the case, our Peppertree adopters, friends, and supporters came through once again for the dogs. I am happy to report that we are actually running slightly ahead of past years in terms of Holiday Appeal donations for 2010. While all these funds are necessary due to the increased costs incurred in 2010 and those expected in 2011, the level of support that we have received this year is a tremendous tribute to all of our friends and supporters. It is not lost on us that each contributor had to dig just a little deeper and sacrifice a little more in order to make a donation to the 2010 Peppertree Holiday



Appeal due to the poor economy. Words really cannot express the gratitude and thanks that we have towards each of you. While it may be the Peppertree volunteers who care for, foster and place the dogs, none of this is possible without the incredible financial support of our larger Peppertree family. You are all part of the Peppertree team and we are simply in awe of your generosity. This year Peppertree donors gave more and earlier than ever, thus far contributing seventeen thousand dollars to Peppertree Rescue. The final donation of the 2009 appeal came in October of 2010, it's never too late to give. If you have not contributed to the 2010 Holiday Appeal, there is still time. You can send your donation to Peppertree Rescue, PO Box 2236, Albany, NY 12220. Peppertree Rescue is an all volunteer organization with no formal location, every donation we receive goes directly to helping rescue more dogs. Again, thank you for your amazing support of Peppertree Rescue as we work together to find homes for these wonderful dogs.



Charlie's Dog Safety Tips

for Kids

Tips to help keep you safe around dogs:

1. Check it's sweet - before you meet!

Before going up to a dog ask permission from its owner.

Lots of dogs are friendly, but some aren't. The owner can tell you if it is safe to go up to their dog. But still be careful. Let the dog approach you - don't chase it if it moves away, it might not feel like meeting you that day.

2. To understand - they sniff your hand!

When meeting a dog let it sniff the back of your hand.

Dogs have a sense of smell that is 50 times stronger than ours. Dogs use their sense of smell to get to know strangers. Using the back of your hand keeps your fingers out of the way. Let the dog come up to you and sniff - don't push your hand under the dog's nose.

3. Chin or chest - that's the best!

After permission is given, stroke only the dog's chin, chest or shoulders and remember to be gentle.

Dogs don't really like being patted on their heads by strangers. They might think you are trying to hurt them.

4. To meet a pup - ask a grown-up!

Ask an adult before cuddling a puppy.

Mother dogs are naturally protective and may growl or snap at you to protect their puppies. But even if a puppy's mother isn't there, puppies can bite, jump and scratch like older dogs— so be careful and gentle. Puppies and adult dogs don't like being picked up and hugged or kissed.

5. If a dog has a snack - keep well back!

Stay away from a dog that is eating or has a bone. When they are eating, dogs might think you want



to take some of their food if you try to pat them. They want to protect their food.

6. Keep your face - out of their space!

Never kiss or put your face down close to a dog's face.

It's just common sense for you to keep your face away from a dog's teeth. Even if it doesn't want to nip you it could hurt you accidentally.

7. Don't run and shout - it freaks us out!

Do not run around or shout near a dog.

Dogs react to the way we behave. If you shout or run a dog might chase or attack you. Playing fetch or obedience games with your dog is better than playing chase or tug of war games.

8. A dog's not a toy - don't tease and annoy!

Never tease, hurt or annoy a dog.

Dogs can tell us to stop only by growling or biting. Don't tease a dog by waving food or a toy in front of it - the dog might make a grab for the food or toy and hurt you by mistake.

9. Quiet and slow - is the way to go!

If you are scared of a dog, move quietly and slowly away from it.

Don't run. Stand like a tree - stand still, look at your feet and keep your arms in front of you. Don't scream or shout. Walk away quietly and slowly. Don't stare at the dog as you move away. If you stare, a dog might think you want to fight.

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PESOS FOR PEPPERTREE

MEXICAN RADIO GOES TO THE DOGS!



**SUNDAY
MARCH 20TH
NOON-8 PM**

**MEXICAN RADIO
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TO SAVE AND FIND HOMES FOR WONDERFUL DOGS! * ENJOY
DELICIOUS FOOD, DRINK, AND GREAT COMPANY! * ALSO SERVING
VEGETARIAN, VEGAN, AND GLUTEN-FREE MEALS!**



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Peppertree Volunteer Spotlight

Meet: Mary Ellen Grimaldi

Occupation? Recently retired from NYS Historic Sites as a museum educator.

How long have you been volunteering with Peppertree, and what are your Volunteer Roles? Four-five years. I happily wear many hats and try to assist wherever I am needed (except with anything related to computers! My favorite things are probably working with applicants to make a match with one of our dogs, and also helping to recruit and maintain foster homes.

Name and Breed of dogs in your family? Any other animals in the home? Four dogs, two of which are Peppertree alumni, Addie and Riley. We also have Nell and Evie, along with "multiple" cats. The dogs are all marvelous mixes, with a preponderance of hound, a bit of Lab, and some lap dog like Chihuahua and Pomeranian thrown in the mix to make it all more interesting.

How or why did you come to be a Peppertree volunteer? I had volunteered with a couple other rescue groups before gravitating to Peppertree, and found it to be the most comfortable fit.

What surprised you the most about rescue once you became more involved? I think I was surprised at how much it helps me to realize I am in it for the long haul, to give perspective and to aid in weathering life's inevitable disappointments. A wise person once said "Rescue is not a sprint, it is a marathon" and it does help to look at it that way. The many happy endings are exhilarating and wonderful, but it's not all about the high points, and going into rescue understanding that will keep you on an even keel. We volunteers often hear "I could NEVER do what you do" to which I really want to reply, "Try it and see. You won't know unless you try."

Do you have a favorite breed? If so, what is it?
The All American mixes, the "Heinz 57s", of this world.

What is your favorite activity to do with your dog(s)?
My husband Joe and I are quite the couch potatoes as are the dogs, however we do love to explore our woods with them. (out preferably not when ticks are at their most abundant.) I also think that for entertainment

nothing beats watching the dogs romp in the snow.

Does one Peppertree Dog stick out in your mind?

There are so many memorable dogs, but one who really sticks out for me is Tracey, a Foxhound/Coonhound from Georgia who came to Peppertree so debilitated. She clearly had had several litters, was severely underweight and had no gleam in her eye or spark in her at all. However, her sweet disposition and rock-solid temperament shone through even then. Tracey was in a marvelous foster home which oversaw her rehabilitation and got her in shape to finally be spayed and have 8 or 9 teeth removed. Once she was under anesthesia for the surgery the vet discovered that she had had a stick impaled in the roof of her mouth for months (happening before she came north) and had a potentially life-threatening infection because of this. Considering the amount of pain she must have been in, all were astounded that she had never shown a single sign of grumpiness.

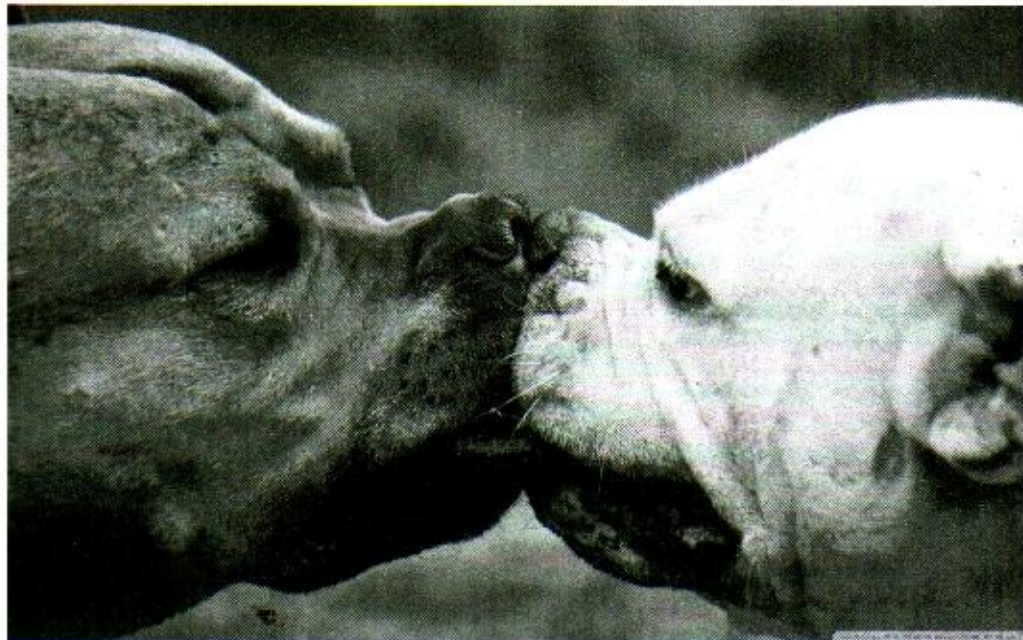
What is your favorite thing about Peppertree Rescue?

The philosophy on which Peppertree was founded and that has kept it going strong for over a decade is something that really appeals to me. But to echo what many others in this space have expressed, the dogs and the people are by far my favorite thing about the group. As I am fond of saying, the Peppertree volunteers are almost as nice as the dogs! We are a very eclectic mix, but with one thing in common that makes us tick: love of dogs and the desire to help them find great new homes. Everyone has an important role they fill and we are so respectful of each other's differences, but support and enjoy one another, and (on occasion) put up with each other. Peppertree volunteers also seem to share a rather skewed sense of humor and if you don't have a sense of humor in this endeavor, you won't last long.



DOG PARK 101

By Patrice O'Connor



Off leash dog parks can be a wonderful experience for both dogs and owners. Dog parks are a great place for dogs to run, exercise and burn off some steam. They also can be a place for dogs to socialize and learn appropriate dog behavior as long as everyone follows the posted rules and some simple, yet important, etiquette. Basic manners and good judgment will result in a good time had by all.

- 🐾 Know your dog! This is probably the most important rule of etiquette. Know your dog's temperament, behavioral issues, sensitivities, and triggers. Completing a basic obedience class prior to visiting dog parks is very helpful to knowing what you can expect from your dog in a multiple dog setting.

- 🐾 Do not bring dogs less than four months of age to a dog park. Puppies may not have all of their immunizations and may be more susceptible to parasites and communicable disease. Puppies could be inadvertently harmed by the play of larger, boisterous adult dogs.

- 🐾 Only bring an immunized and healthy dog to the dog park. Your dog should be up-to-date on the basic vaccines and should not visit if ill with a contagious disease such as mange, kennel cough, coccidian, giardia or other parasites. Generally speaking if your dog has loose stool or is coughing, stay away from the park until he/she is feeling better.

- 🐾 Please clean up after your dog. Dogs tend to "do their business" upon arriving at the dog park. Please watch your dog carefully and clean up after him/her promptly!

- 🐾 Follow the posted rules. Many community dog parks have specific rules in place that were written to ensure the

safety of both dogs and owners.

- 🐾 Open and close safety gates one at a time and only un-leash your dog within the safety gates.

- 🐾 Stay conscious of the environment and watch what your dog is doing at all times. It's fun for humans to socialize at dog parks, but it's your responsibility to know where your dog is and what he/she is doing at all times.

- 🐾 Remove pronged, spike, or choke collars while inside the park.

- 🐾 Do not bring in rawhide or treats. High value treats can cause dog scuffles or fights.

- 🐾 Don't bring more dogs than you can handle or keep your eye on.

- 🐾 Young children should not visit dog parks. Depending on the size and energy level of the dogs playing, a young child could easily be injured, and not all dogs have great manners when it comes to kids. The dog park is a place for dogs, and adults.

- 🐾 Be responsible for your dog's behavior. If your dog digs a hole, fill it. If he/she destroys another dog's toy, offer to replace it. If your dog injures another dog, offer to pay for medical costs.

- 🐾 Please respect the layout of the park regarding large and small dog areas. Many parks have separate areas for petite guys and gals. Do not let your large dog enter these areas.





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A Rescue For Dogs Of Good Temperament



A big Peppertree thank you to Jack and Kendall McCann. Their family has a Peppertree dog, and they decided to donate over \$70 in coins to Peppertree Rescue, which they delivered to us at a clinic just before Christmas. Among the coin jar was also two Russian rubles, a coin from Belgium, and a video game token! Thanks for thinking of Peppertree Jack and Kendall, every donation helps us help the dogs.